

# News Release



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Contact: Joe Rosato  
(916) 324-1576

## California State Parks

### **No Snow: Popular SNO-PARKS to Close May 10**

SACRAMENTO -- Because of poor snow conditions, all 21 SNO-PARKS operated statewide by California State Parks will be closed for the season beginning Monday, May 10, 2004, State Park officials announced today.

The popular parks annually attract more than 300,000 visitors in a season that generally runs from November 1 through May 30.

The SNO-PARK sites provide snow-cleared parking lots with sanitation facilities and access to snow play areas, cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. The SNO-PARK Program is administered by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks.

The SNO-PARKS program started in 1984 with legislation authored by State Sen. Jim Costa in response to constituents' requests for plowed parking areas where they could safely park off a highway to recreate in the snow. The SNO-PARKS program was moved in 1993 from the Planning Section of California State Parks to the OHMVR Division.

The program has grown from 15 sites in 1986 to 21 SNO-PARKS today with more than 100 vendors selling SNO-PARK permits. The permit sales that are placed in the Winter Recreation Fund pay for basic services, including plowing, paved and signed parking, trash removal, and restrooms.

SNO-PARKS provide opportunities not only for snowmobiles, but also for cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and for others who just want to play in the snow. The Division works with the California Department of Transportation, County Sheriffs, U.S. Forest Service, and the California Highway Patrol to provide safe family recreation, snow plowed parking lots, and maintained restrooms.

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